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Conservation Commission Minutes, June 1, 2006

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 1, 2006

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Ellen Reed, David White, Judith Hodges, William O'Rourke Catherine Garnett, Chuck Tirone and Timothy Sullivan of the Commission. Karro Frost, of New England Environmental, Dana Cadwell-Frost, and Joe Agresta were present for conduit work at Alewife Reservation. Nick Wildman, from Bioengineering Group, was present for the Greenway-West Bank project in the Alewife Reservation. Leslie Mayer, of the Reservoir Committee, and Elizabeth Karpati, of the Spy Pond Committees (Friends and Vision 2020) were also present.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Ms. Beckwith reported that she has a site walk scheduled for 6/2/06 to 87 Mystic St to inspect erosion controls and discuss potential bank stabilization work.

Mr. Tirone reported on his work to get aquatic weed inspection signs for the new boat launch at Spy Pond Park. He obtained the updated signs from DCR and is coordinating presentations to the Park Commission, and Spy Pond groups. Ms. Mayer, who is also on the Park Commission, spoke to some of the issues with signage, mostly to the need for restraint.

Mr. Stevens reported on the start of construction at the Symmes property. The grubbing and clearing will start soon for the lower parking area and retaining wall construction. The wall is very large, 30 feet tall. The trees (some oaks but probably mostly Norway Maples) that are removed will be documented. The Commission feels that the Forest survey should be completed prior to this work beginning.

Mr. O'Rourke presented a computer slide show of the flooding of May 15. He measured 9 inches of rain falling in his back yard in East Arlington. He had photos of illegal hookups of the basement sump pumps being connected to the sanitary sewer line.

The Water Department will be conducting meter replacements, town-wide to some 20,000 homes, and will inspect for these hookups at the same time.

The Advocate reported only minor spots of flooding on the Alewife and the Mystic.

7:45pm – UPPER MYSTIC LAKE, NOTICE OF INTENT for aquatic weed treatment

The hearing was continued from 5/18 due to lack of quorum at that meeting. The special condition to include landscaping practices of the applicants was added to the permit.

White/O'Rourke motioned to approve the project as proposed; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – Alewife Reservation, installation of fiber optic cable
 Mr. Agresta described the project to install cable in a 48 inch deep trench. The entire project will be below grade when completed.

Some areas will be revegetated upon completion. The work will take approximately 3-5 days. Erosion controls are presented on the plans. The work will take place in Buffer Zone, potentially Floodplain, and Riverfront Area, but will not result in any permanent alteration to these resource areas.

O'Rourke/Reed motioned to approve the proposed work, even though the work is within resource areas it will not result in any impacts and therefore no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm WORKING SESSION – Alewife Reservation Master Plan, Greenway - West Bank

Mr. Wildman presented the project to construct a pedestrian pathway from the Minuteman Bikeway to the Mystic River. They are beginning to delineate resource areas for the project, including floodplain, and wanted consultation with the Commission on this topic. The Commission confirmed that most, if not, all of the work will take place within floodplain, as it is immediately adjacent to the Alewife Brook.

9pm WORKING SESSION – Arlington Reservoir Dam Project – planting plan

Ms. Garnett is drafting the landscaping plan and presented the drafted drawings to the Commission. She is attempting to include all 88 trees in the draft, clumped into areas to leave open spaces, might have 10 extra trees that might be planted on Lexington side. She will finalize the drawings and present them to us at the next meeting.

Ms. Beckwith asking if there were any outstanding issues to report to the project engineer. The base of the emergency spillway is not well stabilized, grass and stonedust path are not stable.

The Commission voted to convene at approximately 10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator